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lines of *Echini* after they have been differentiated, than we can expect to find fossil centaurs or sphinxes. So also with the minor lines, though of course the sagacity of the investigator is taxed to ascertain what these are. Thus much in defence of hypothetical lines bridging present gaps in our knowledge. Such have not unfrequently been realized by palæontological discoveries. As to lines already worked out, such as the genera of *Camelidæ*, *Felidæ*, *Rhinocerotidæ*, horses, etc., no question of mathematical probabilities can invalidate the significance of the wonderful closeness of the successive stages which they present.—*E. D. C.*

—:o:—

RECENT LITERATURE.

NELL'S NEW MAP OF COLORADO.¹—It is strange that in this country there are no map-makers worthy the name. The only decent maps, either of the whole or portions of the country, are those published by the General Government.

It is sad, but true, that the best map of the United States which can be purchased, and I may add which can be obtained, is published not here but in Germany. This is not from want of skill in drafting and engraving, but it seems to be a want of knowledge, of enterprise and of care in those superintending the work. I am roused to this philippic by the appearance of a map of Colorado, which is a vast improvement, both in style and in correctness of compilation, over anything heretofore published for sale in this country.

The map has been compiled by Mr. Louis Nell, a topographical engineer who has been for a number of years connected with the Survey of the Territories under Capt. G. M. Wheeler. He has brought to the work not only a general knowledge of how a country should be represented on a map, but a personal acquaintanceship with a large part of the country represented. The map shows, too, a degree of painstaking accuracy and care which is very rare among us.

The map is evidently compiled, although authorities are not mentioned in detail, from the work of the surveys under Hayden, Wheeler, King and the General Land Office. The scale of the map is 10.5 miles to one inch. The topography is represented by hachures and by contour-curves at every 1000 feet up to 11,000 feet. The county lines are given, and it may be said, in passing, that the map might have been a little clearer if these lines were less pronounced.

All the later changes due to settlement, roads, railroads, etc., have been added, bringing it fully up to date. The estimated area of irrigable (arable) land is represented by colors. The ele-

¹ *Nell's New Topographical and Township Map of the State of Colorado.* Compiled from U. S. Government Surveys and other authorities. Washington, D. C., 1880. Scale 10.5 miles to one inch.

vations of many hundreds of points are given in feet above sea level, and to illustrate the careful nature of the work, it may be noted that those measured by spirit-level are distinguished from those dependent upon the barometer.

It is to be hoped, in the interest of map-making in this country that Mr. Nell may see his way clear to extending his work and making this one of a series.—*H. Gannett.*

HAECKEL'S SYSTEM OF MEDUSÆ.¹—The early reputation of Haeckel rested mainly on his great work on the Radiolaria, a magnificent and costly folio volume with numerous beautifully executed plates; this was succeeded by his smaller works on the Monera and other invertebrate animals; his great work on sponges then succeeded; in the embryological portion of this work some errors have naturally been detected by subsequent observers. Then Haeckel prepared his popular, more general works, *i. e.*, the General Morphology, his History of Creation and Anthropology. In these works he gave rein to his imagination, and while he attempted to solve problems insoluble in our day and with our present knowledge, and though opening up new lines of investigation, yet committed some extravagances of scientific thought, and in some statements, and especially illustrations from his prolific pencil, overstrained or actually misrepresented nature to suit his own generalizations or ideas. This laid him open to criticism, especially from other observers of eminence, those whom Haeckel had mercilessly and at times coarsely vituperated for what seemed to him blunders and shortcomings, though the charges he made against others have recoiled upon himself. It has been of late a current remark, that Haeckel has lost prestige and that his work upon the whole is not to be depended upon. Hence the scientific public are perhaps taken by surprise at the energy, strength of purpose, industry, accuracy and great skill in delineation shown in the work before us, a work analytical in intention, thoroughly systematic, and which is said by those most competent by long acquaintance with the jelly fishes to judge, to be quite up to the best of Haeckel's systematic and anatomical work. We confess we have a hearty sympathy for those pioneers in biology who, in endeavoring to open up new paths of research, are not afraid to work at times in the dark, and indulge in what prove in some cases to be hasty generalizations, or far-fetched conclusions from too scanty facts. We all forget that Newton emitted several theories which were short lived, and that the best of observers and thinkers sometimes do what proves later to be rash, useless or actually misleading work.

The part before us describes the Craspedote, or naked-eyed

¹*Das System der Medusen. Erster theil einer Monographie der Medusen.* Von Dr. ERNST HAECKEL. Mit einem Atlas m. 40 plates. Erste hälfte des ersten Theils. System der Craspedoten. 20 Tafeln. Jena, 1879, folio. (Denkschriften der Med. Naturwissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zu Jena.) Pages 360.